

Qwest makes request for extended service

By TIFFANY DE MASTERS January 12, 2007
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ST. GEORGE - Qwest announced the addition of extended area service in Washington County on Wednesday.

Frank Lojko, town council member in Leeds, said it was something that people had a real issue with and that it had been discussed but no one had done anything with it. Dale Barnes, councilman for Leeds, said right now their town calls long distance to six different towns. The towns are Springdale, Hurricane, Toquerville, Rockville, Virgin and LaVerkin.

For Barnes, it's been inconvenient having long-distance charges because he has a son and grandkids who live in Hurricane and friends in Toquerville.

"We can see Hurricane, it's only about six miles away from us, yet to call across St. George isn't long distance - it just doesn't make sense," he said.

Barnes said it will make it a lot easier to call other areas and people will be able to save on their phone bills.

Lojko said when he was running for office, he made it one of his platforms to make that request a reality and get the service changed.

"When I got elected, I worked with Qwest to make it happen," he said.

Gary Younger, media relations manager for Qwest, said when Lojko announced the EAS, it was like he announced an oil well had been discovered in the town.

"Our customers have asked for it and we were able to do it and it's the right thing to do," he said.

Barnes said his community is happy with the service - especially now that it's getting EAS.

"Community members were very happy about it," Barnes said. "They've been wanting this for a long time."

Younger said EAS is not going to increase the charge Qwest cutomers currently pay.